

Approved Minutes– Economic Development Advisory Committee
Northfield Town Hall 69 Main Street, Northfield MA

February 1, 2024– 5:30-7:00 pm, Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Submitted by: Sarah Kerns, Chair

Present: Robin Van der Matt, Steve Stoia, Jinx Hastings, Sarah Kerns

Guests: Patricia Young and Howard Hastings

530 Call to order

Upcoming meeting dates- 13,27FEB2024

Northfield business guest & prospective member

- Patricia Young 2018, Dr. of physical therapy with a practice in Northfield introduced herself and expressed interest in joining the committee. Special interest in Right to farm community/sustainable living, and teaching wellness
- Motion by Jinx, second by Steve to request the SelectBoard to appoint Patricia to the committee.unaamous passing.
- Group discussion and ideas:
 - *Loss of the commons when the highway came through- loss of walkability*
 - *Appearance of mainstreet- how do we create space that is fun and walkable.*
 - *How we maintain the right to farm community and bridge it with and economic plan without becoming overcommercialized (balance between abundance)*
 - *Wellness center- massage, yoga, chiro, PT, nutrition, etc*
 - *Age-in-place resources- community driver & medicine via buy-in [Beacon hill model]*
 - *Office sharing space or gaming spot*
 - *Historic district requirement*
 - *Focus on beautifying main street- loss of commons and need for walkability.*
 - *Business park to bring business without becoming overcommercialized*
 - *Community opportunities like band, food trucks, playgrounds, amphitheater*
 - *Empty properties and Northfield business needs*

1. *Member updates:*

a. *Jinx- main street beautification*

- i. *? update on bike rack*
- ii. *Beautification by block*

b. *Steve-*

- i. *Trinitarian church*
- ii. *New schell bridge*
- iii. *Green business park- not industrial- no living wage jobs, town is difficult to stay in- young people can't afford to live in town anymore,*
- iv. *Business park survey*
 - 1. *No hotel*
 - 2. *No restaurant*
- v. *Performing arts center*

c. *Robin- waiting for community survey data!*

d. Sarah-

i. Community amphitheater, sound limited— talk to the school

Patricia (guest suggestions at committee invitation) - ideas to bring people students or take a block

e. Places to sit

f. Play area, climbing wall

g. Community for northfield- new moms at town hall

h. Food truck in the open field (levritt elementary school playground)

Properties:

a. little green house?

b. Town pavilion

c. Jodie's empty property- how much land? This was Brownfield land and may be limited

d. ?farmer's market? Current garden folks can't meet there on Saturday morning- community event

e. ROBIN-

i. farmer's market

1. Susie secco contact

2. Several fliers to vote on

3. Samantha tavaris

4. Other farmer's markets- what works what doesn't

f. SARAH-

i. Community amphitheater

1. Hadley at the waldorf school

2. Amherst shakespeare in the woods

3. Renting the space

4. Ko-performances-google it they solicit business owners to fund it

5. SilverBell farm

g. STEVE-

i. Trips to business parks

ii. Business park questionnaire

h. JINX

i. Parameters for beautifying main street

- Waiting on the survey data from town.

7pm vote to adjourn